

# California Department of Veterans Affairs



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CAL-VET LOANS – VETERANS HOMES – VETERANS SERVICES – WOMEN VETERANS  
VETERANS CEMETERIES AND MEMORIALS – VETS LICENSE PLATES

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **CALIFORNIA'S VETERANS HONORED AT INTERNATIONAL WORLD PEACE ROSE GARDEN AT CAPITOL**

**SACRAMENTO, CA.** – April 23, 2003 – Today, the California Department of Veterans Affairs and the International World Peace Rose Gardens honored veterans of all wars by planting “Purple Heart, Silver Star, and Bronze Star roses. Veterans whom had earned these commendations assisted with the planting of these roses. In addition, three other roses named World War II, Desert Peace, and Veterans Honor were also planted. Many veterans, their friends, and families were in attendance as these roses were placed just a few feet from the California Vietnam War Memorial in Capitol Park.

“It is an honor and an obligation to recognize our country’s veterans for answering the call to defend our freedom when the occasion made it necessary,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs K. Maurice Johannessen. “These men and women put themselves in harms way while upholding the ideals of freedom and respect for humanity for all the peoples of the world. It is only fitting that they now be recognized with a tribute which will stand and grow every year, and whose roses will remind everyone that peace needs to be tended too and not taken for granted.”

Today’s event was the culmination of efforts between the California Department of Veterans Affairs and the International World Peace Rose Gardens. The roses planted today will occupy a small section of the International World Peace Rose Garden currently taking form at the corner of 15<sup>th</sup> and L Streets in Downtown Sacramento.

“We are honored to have veterans plant the first roses in the International World Peace Rose Garden, California State Capitol Park, said International World Peace Rose Gardens Founder T.J. David. “Veterans have unselfishly served to defend our country and their courageous heroism is deeply valued and appreciated by us.”

“It is only fitting to have asked veterans to plant roses that were especially named to honor them,” added International World Peace Rose Gardens Founder Sylvia Villalobos.

Today, California is home to over three million veterans. Nationwide, that number exceeds twenty-eight million.

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